



MUSONIUM GALLERY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Springs, CA, October 4, 2024 – Musonium Gallery to open Bob Doucette's solo exhibition, *HOMAGE*, showcasing a grand collection of new acrylic paintings.



Bob Doucette, *Wasteland*
24"x36" Acrylic on Canvas
©Bob Doucette

Musonium Gallery is pleased to present *HOMAGE*, an expansive solo exhibition by Bob Doucette with new acrylic renditions and storytellings of many of history's most recognizable paintings. Since the dawn of time, humans have been creating art, some as a form of documentation depicting culturally significant subject matter and others representing important life events. From symbolically fueled prehistoric cave paintings unearthing early humans' history, to the Renaissance masterpieces reflecting a time of rebirth and discovery, new art movements emerge from specific styles that align with a particular period in time. With each passing era comes with it new worldly experiences in an ever transforming world where cultural ideologies evolve as a result of new ideas and ways of viewing life. Doucette's new body of work invites viewers to join a fantastical journey through time, where pop-surrealism penetrates many of history's most profound artworks, creating contemporary yet familiar representations that challenge how we interpret the narratives behind the original masterpieces.

From ancient times to present day, the world of art has experienced extensive and diverse expansions into intriguing new artistic styles as the modern world developed, sparking vast concepts, themes, and subject matters encompassing the Contemporary Art Movement. Existing as a distinctive way to present social and cultural commentary, artists use their skills and talents to express themselves and individual perspectives surrounding experiences unique to them. The artworks Doucette chose to reinterpret in *HOMAGE* were created with respect to the essence of the original historically significant masterpieces, but with new artistic interpretations interpolated at the hand of a contemporary vision. The importance of studying and appreciating the history of art remains undoubtedly relevant today as these notable contributions have direct influence on the cultures that produced them. This exhibition is a visual timeline illustrating the evolution of art throughout the ages, whilst observing how the history of art unveils knowledge behind who we are as people and the many ways in which we view the world around us.

Doucette's pieces in *HOMAGE* unite celebrated masterpieces from museum collections around the world with the artist's uniquely identifiable style, merging visually recognizable yet meticulously reimagined images with whimsical flare. In the piece titled *Mi Familia* (inspired by Diego Valázquez's *Las Meninas*), the large scale composition and linear depth of the original oil painting has been accurately recreated and sees Doucette replacing Valázquez's portrait for a portrait of himself, along with homages of his own work gracing the walls in the background. Doucette created his own rococo rendition of desire and power in *Musette Takes The Swing* (inspired by Jean-Honoré Fragonard's iconic painting *The Swing*), with a special appearance of original characters - *Buzzbee Berkley*, and *Mitzi*. Perfectly entitled *A Matter of Life and Death* (inspired by Jan Van Eyck's intriguing painting, *The Arnolfini Portrait*), Van Eyck's signature on the back wall is replaced by Doucette's own, as well as creating a new narrative surrounding the married couple from the original masterpiece through the appearance of his recurring character – *Alfred P. Death*, suggesting the vows a couple makes at the hand of marriage.



HOMAGE

The internet has broken open a pandora's box of information that has been laid bare for all to consume. For a visual artist it is a treasure trove of imagery from art history to modern pop culture that dazzles the mind.

– Bob Doucette

Bob Doucette, *Mi Familia*
40"x30" Acrylic on Canvas
©Dob Doucette

In the radiating piece titled *All In The Golden Afternoon* (inspired by Gustav Klimt's *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I*), Doucette reinterprets the prominent Art Nouveau painter and his “golden style” depiction of the subject, where Doucette's original character *Musette* becomes *The Lady in Gold*. The thematically captivating rococo era influenced painting *Wasteland* (inspired by Thomas Gainsborough's early career masterpiece, *Mr. and Mrs. Andrews*), portrays a married couple, their wealth, and possession of agriculturally rich land in a contemplative scene depicting the 18th century English class society. In *Otto My Love* (inspired by Otto Dix's iconic 1926 masterpiece, *Portrait of Journalist Sylvia von Harden*), satire, exploitation, and allegory combine to create a perfect depiction of societies highly sexual view of women progressing into the working New Woman. As the title suggests, *HOMAGE* respectfully pays tribute to an enumeration of iconic masterpieces and their creators, where the historical archive of artworks represent a visual timeline of societal changes around the world and a reflective glimpse into the future.



Bob Doucette, *All In The Golden Afternoon*
20”x16” Acrylic on Canvas
©Bob Doucette



Bob Doucette, *Otto My Love*
20”x16” Acrylic on Canvas
©Bob Doucette

ABOUT BOB DOUCETTE

Bob Doucette’s whimsical and highly saturated paintings come from the world of dreams. Sometimes bordering on surreal, his imagery is a product of a decade of theater work, puppetry and twenty-five years in the world of animation. As an animation director he was responsible for many well known animated children’s programs for PBS including, *Chloe’s Closet*, *Dive Olly Dive* and *Clifford’s Puppy Days*. He started in animation at Warner Bros. and was involved with many classics like *Tiny Toon Adventures* and *Animaniacs*. His independently animated films won him many prestigious awards and honors and his MFA thesis film *Pink Triangle*, the first animated film to depict the persecution of homosexuals by the Nazis, is in the permanent collection at the New York Public Library.

As a doll maker Bob has been in galleries since the early 90s. His Ben Franklin doll, created for the White House Christmas tree in 1999, is in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian. Many of his dolls are in the private collection of Demi Moore and have been featured in books, magazines articles and TV programs. Bob earned a BFA at Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA at CalARTS and studied both illustration and animation. He was born in Waterville Maine and at present lives in Peoria with his husband Tom and his two cats Gingerbread Princess Pumpkin-head.

#BobDoucette

About Musonium Gallery

Nestled in the vibrant Uptown Arts and Design District of Palm Springs, California, Musonium Gallery stands as a beacon of artistic innovation and cultural enrichment. Established in 2024, the gallery is committed to showcasing some of the worlds best contemporary talents, with a focus on a dynamic and carefully curated exhibition program. Musonium Gallery is perfectly positioned in the iconic Coachella Valley, offering a unique blend of natural beauty, architecture, and cultural richness, providing an inspiring backdrop for artistic expression. Each exhibition is carefully crafted to offer a transformative experience that resonates with the themes and narratives behind the artworks. Musonium Gallery is dedicated to providing a platform and space for cutting-edge contemporary artist's to engage with and thrive in the constantly evolving art world.

#MusoniumGallery

HOMAGE

Solo Exhibition by, Bob Doucette
October 4, 2024 – November 3, 2024

Opening Reception: Friday, August 30, 2024 from 6-8 pm

PRESS

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